A Wonderful Dog.

D OGS that can do all sorts of cute tricks taught them by kind and patient masters are common, but a dog that without training can spell, solve arithmetical prob-lems, pick out colours, point out any one card of a pack of cards, designate one card of a pack of cards, designate the denomination of any piece of money known to us, must be admitted to be pretty high up in the scale of educated canines. Yet Rufus is not educated. True, his master spent three months' spare time trying to teach him how to spell one word and pick out a certain card from among others placed before him. And he was about to give up attempts at teaching the dog, when he accidentally discovered the creature's wonderful abilities.

"I'll never be able to teach you how to spell Boston," he said, one day, despondently. "Come, spell something else; spell my name. What's the first letter, Rufus, eh, old boy?"

No one was more surprised than the

No one was more surprised than the discouraged teacher when the dog, discouraged teacher when the dog, turning to the group of mixed-up letters on the floor in front of him, swiftly and correctly pulled the desired letter toward him. His master thought it just a happy coincidence, but went on asking for letter after letter, Rufus recognition each time with the one desired to the contraction of the contraction of the contraction asking for letter after letter, Rufus recognition each time with the one desired the contraction of the co responding each time with the one de-

sired. He was tried with other words and he got every word right.

This is not all. Rufus not only spells in English, but, when requested, actually translates the words into German and French.

And in arithmetic he can beat many scholars who have spent years at school in the quickness of his correct school in the quickness of his correct replies. Putting a number of coins on the floor in front of him, his master says: "Point out the dollar, Rufus?" and Rufus pounces on it. He solves questions like this: "If you went into a store, Rufus, and bought a muzzle for seventy-five cents and gave the dealer a dollar, what change would you get?" Rufus scratches the quarter out of place. Sometimes he has to use two bits to make the correct reply, but he does it just as easily. rect reply, but he does it just as easily. He answers such questions as "What is twelve divided by two and the product divided again?" more quickly than many of those viewing his acts could do it. In fact, his swiftness of reply detracts from the impressiveness of his work. He seems to do all automatically. He gives no sign of any mind process. Rather, his acts seem like the working of a piece of machinery, obeying the touch of a master hand.

Rufus can spell the name of any visitor, even if he has never heard it before, provided his master can spell If his master can't spell it, neither can he. His master is also a good German and French scholar, proficient in the two languages in which Rufus is also learned. This does not mean that there is any collusion be-tween the two. The dog's master cannot explain the reason for the dog's work or how he does these wonderful things. He only knows that unless he holds in his own mind the answer to the questions Rufus is unable to

reply.

When Rufus first made known his

was quite shy and refused to show off unless his audience kept very still. Now, he is less sensitive and holds forth before quite a gather-

Rufus is a spaniel, a bright, pretty creature who was rescued from the city streets two or three years ago by a philanthropist who saw his forlorn, friedless condition, and pitied him. friendless condition, and pitied him. He can do many tricks, of the usual kind taught to dogs. But who can explain this marvellous power which he possesses or which possesses him?

—The American Boy.



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